

We Claim:

1. A method for introducing and activating a getter in a vacuum vessel, which comprises:

introducing the getter packaged in a protective sleeve into the vacuum vessel;

closing off and evacuating the vacuum vessel; and

opening the protective sleeve after the evacuation has commenced.

2. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises carrying out the opening of the protective sleeve by the action of gas pressure.

3. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises carrying out the opening of the protective sleeve by the action of an external pressure deforming the vacuum vessel during the evacuation to open the protective sleeve.

4. The method according to claim 3, which further comprises breaking the protective sleeve by contact with the vacuum vessel during the deformation of the vacuum vessel.

5. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises:

filling the gastight protective sleeve with a protective gas;
and

one of bursting and opening up the sleeve by evacuating the
vacuum chamber.

6. The method according to claim 5, which further comprises
exposing the getter by elastic contraction of the protective
sleeve after it has one of burst and opened.

7. The method according to claim 5, which further comprises
providing the sleeve as a flexible film.

8. The method according to claim 5, which further comprises
bursting the sleeve against a projection in an interior of the
vacuum chamber.

9. The method according to claim 5, which further comprises
providing the protective sleeve as a plurality of rigid parts
pressed against one another under surrounding atmospheric
pressure and moving apart when pressure in the vacuum chamber
reduces below a given level to keep the parts pressed
together.

10. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises moving at least one part of the sleeve away from the getter by connecting the sleeve to a manipulator actuated from outside the vacuum vessel.

11. A method for introducing and activating a getter in a vacuum vessel, which comprises:

packaging the getter in a protective sleeve;

introducing the getter packaged in the protective sleeve into the vacuum vessel;

closing off and evacuating the vacuum vessel; and

opening the protective sleeve after the evacuation has commenced.

12. A getter unit, comprising:

a getter; and

a protective sleeve surrounding said getter, said protective sleeve being at least partly formed from a brittle material destroyed by deformation.

13. The getter unit according to claim 12, wherein said protective sleeve has at least one breaking point.

14. A getter unit to be introduced and activated in a vacuum vessel, comprising:

a getter; and

a protective sleeve surrounding said getter, said protective sleeve being at least partly formed from a brittle material destroyed by deformation after the evacuation of the vacuum vessel has commenced.

15. The getter unit according to claim 14, wherein said protective sleeve has at least one breaking point.

16. A getter unit, comprising:

a getter; and

a protective sleeve surrounding said getter, said protective sleeve being at least partly formed from a flexible film.

17. The getter unit according to claim 16, wherein said film is under prestress at surrounding atmospheric pressure.

18. The getter unit according to claim 16, wherein said protective sleeve has at least one breaking point.

19. A getter unit to be introduced and activated in a vacuum vessel, comprising:

a getter; and

a protective sleeve surrounding said getter, said protective sleeve being at least partly formed from a flexible film opened after the evacuation of the vacuum vessel has commenced.

20. The getter unit according to claim 19, wherein said film is under prestress at surrounding atmospheric pressure.

21. The getter unit according to claim 20, wherein said protective sleeve has at least one breaking point.

22. A getter unit, comprising:

a getter; and

a protective sleeve surrounding said getter, said protective sleeve having a plurality of rigid parts held together by a

pressure difference between an interior of said protective sleeve and the surrounding atmosphere.

23. The getter unit according to claim 22, further comprising at least one elastic element acting between said parts and exerting a force driving apart said parts.

24. The getter unit according to claim 22, wherein said parts are articulately connected to one another.

25. A getter unit to be introduced and activated in a vacuum vessel, comprising:

a getter; and

a protective sleeve surrounding said getter, said protective sleeve having a plurality of rigid parts held together by a pressure difference between an interior of said protective sleeve and the surrounding atmosphere and opening after the evacuation of the vacuum vessel has commenced.

26. The getter unit according to claim 25, further comprising at least one elastic element acting between said parts and exerting a force driving apart said parts.

27. The getter unit according to claim 25, wherein said parts are articulately connected to one another.